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NEWSMAN

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and other features

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD

November 1960

25 Naye Paise

British Editors to Visit India

A party of well known city editors, and economic writers from Britain are expected to arrive in India in December.

"The Ditcher" wrote in the Capital that he understood that the India Government had decided to give a repeat performance of the highly successful tour organised for British financial journalists in the cold weather of 1956–57.

He states: "The financial journalists are specialist writers who presumably are being invited to make their own assessment of the Indian economy as the second five year plan draws to a close and the curtain rises on the Third Plan, for whose support foreign public opinion, as well as foreign exchange, is urgently required. The Government has shown a good sense of timing in organising such a tour early in what promises to be a busy and exciting cold weather. Among those who are understood to have accepted the invitation to visit India are Mr. William Clark, City Editor of *The Times*, Mr. Roland Bird, Deputy Editor of *The Economist*, Mr. Richard Fry of the *Manchester Guardian*, Mr. Fisher of the *Financial Times* and Mr. Sidney Gompel Reuter's economic editor. There are others too".

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NEWSMAN

MONTHLY JOURNAL OF THE MADRAS REPORTERS' GUILD

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REPORTING ASIA......

Reporting Asia is by no means easy and the travails of the foreign newsman based in Asian counuries are many.

Censorship, visa difficulties unreali-ability of official information in China are but some of the problems to be tackled.

These were spotlighted at the Tokyo session of the IPI General Assembly in a panel discussion presided over by Mr. Fritz P. Molden of DIE PRESSE of Vienna.

Of the many points that emerged from it were: that newsman in Asia did not get precisely the same treatment as in the West; movement of correspondents in Communist China was restricted; the Press in Japan is distrusted by the Government. The main speakers were: Mr. Keyes Beech, Far East Correspondent of CHICAGO DAILY NEWS, Mr. S.Bhat, Hongkong correspondent of TIMES OF INDIA and Mr. Dennis Bloodworth, Far East Correspondent of THE OBSERVER, London.

Opening the panel session, Fritz Mr. Molden said that the reporting of this vast continent had been a problem to probably every newspaperman who ever had anything to do with foreign news. It was probably impossible for an average foreign desk man, in a newspaper or in an agency, really to look over the whole situation. But the fact that they ought to know more was proven, not only by the growing importance of Asian news in the world, but even more so by the previous day's debate in the IPI Assembly.

Mr. Keyes Beech, said that the area he covered extended from Korea to Karachi which "spreads me rather thin."

Apart from the usual problems, such as censorship, notably in Indonesia, and of communications in some of the South-East Asian countries, the main problem, as he saw it, was telling the Asian story in a conventional newspaper format. This was not easy, because Asia was not a conventional story. It was a very complex story and it defied Western logic.

Courageous Press

Mr. Beech said he had just spent three weeks in the Republic of Korea, covering the elections there, and he wished to pay more than a passing tribute to the courage of the Korean press, which was most outspokenly critical of the way in which the elections were conducted. Despite certain irregularities in the elections, no obstacles had been placed in the way of foreign correspondents in covering the elections in Korea. Communications were good; there was no censorship, although the Government usually knew what you wrote before your editor did. But those were things that one expected in certain countries in Asia.

Mr. Beech thought that Korea was important from the standpoint of the foreign press because there was no Government that he knew in Asia which was more sensitive to what was written about the country, than was the Republic of Korea.

With regard to Japan, Mr. Beech said: "I've remarked on a number of occasions that ther's no news in Japan, but that there are lots of good stories." He would say that if exception made news, then Japan ought to be the best story in Asia, because Japan was one of the few countries—one of perhaps only two countries—that was stable and prosperous.

The main story in Japan today, of course, was the amazing recovery of the country after being reduced to rubble only fifteen years ago.

News From China

Some of the problems of reporting from China were dealt with by the second panel speaker, Mr. Bhat. And he explained that one of the main difficulties arose from the complete unreliability of information from Chinese official sources.

For instanec, some 15 months previously Peking had announced that its food grains production had risen from 185,000,000, tons in 1957 to 375,000,000 tons in 1959—that is, had more than doubled, and that the target for 1959 was 525,000,000 tons. Yet in 1959 the world's total yield of unhusked rice—excluding that of China—was just 130,000,000 tons. It seemed fantastic that China alone should be able to produce more than four times the world's total output, but radio Peking, the *New China News Agency*, the Peking *People's Daily* and other official organs of Communist China, maintained that this was so. There were no means available to reporters, either in Peking or in Hong kong, to challenge or check these figurers, which appeared to mean that China was going to produce about 10 times more food grains in 1959 than her people could consume. But correspondents had been thoroughly disillusioned when, in August 1959, the Centra Committee ef the Chinese Communist Party announced that the very figures that it had put out a few months earlier were all highly inflated, and that the total food grains output of China in 1958 had been not 375 million tons, but only 250 million: that the target for 1959 would be only 275 million tons and not 525 million tons. Peking had pricked its own bubble.

(Turn over)

From Page 1

Official Chinese information, said Mr. Bhat, did not tell the truth. It only served Peking's objective of wanting the whole world to believe, that China under Communism was performing miracles; that China was a force to be reckoned with.

Dealing with the sources of information available to correspondents, Mr. Bhat admitted that they were "somewhat limited." There was *New China News Agency*, which, on an average, puts out approximately 200,000 words every week. Then there was radio Peking. Thirdly, there was an excellent translation of Communist Chinese newspapers made available by the American Consulate General in Hong Kong.

In addition there were those who visited China and came out. Such visitors were of three categories. First, there were those who bestowed unqualified praise on China, after having been treated to some lavish hospitality. The second category consisted of those who went with preconceived notions and returned to tell they had found confirmation of their beliefs about China. The third type of visitor belonged to the group who had stayed in China for a couple of years or longer. Generally speaking, they were somewhat moderate and objective in their assessment. But yet another kind of people who went to China and came back were the working class people of Hong Kong —like armourers, mechanics, and so forth, who went to China to meet relatives. What they took into China with them and the accounts they brought back with them of the conditions of their relatives gave some indication of the state of affairs in China.

Political News

Political news from China, said Mr. Bhat, was fairly easy to report, although its interpretation might be extremely dlfficult. Radio Peking English language broadcasts could be monitored without difficulty.

Mr. Bhat explained that he did his own monitoring by plugging in his radio to a tape recorder and simultaneously taking down the broadcast in shorthand. The shorthand notes could be checked with the tape recording, and blanks or inaudible words filled in.

There was one additional source of information concerning China which was outside China, said Mr. Bhat,

(See Page 13)

Access to News:

Dangers of Jap "Club" System

The vexed question of the "Correspondents' Clubs" attached to Japanese Government departments, to which reference was made at the IPI's Asian Conference in 1956, has now been raised once more by the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

The so-called clubs are groups of newsmen who report on the activities of the Government organisation to which they are assigned. And, according to the strange Japanese custom, newspapermen both foreign and Japanese, who are not members of the Correspondents' Club in question are not permitted to attend press conferences or obtain official information from the department concerned.

A striking case in point was the recent occasion of the signing of the Japan-U S. security treaty when foreign correspondents who were not members of the Foreign Ministry "Club" were excluded from a press conference given by the Japanese Foreign Minister. As a result of this incident, the Foreign Correspondents' Club passed a resolution asking the Ministry for Foreign Affairs "to ensure full access to the news for the foreign press in Japan by taking suitable action within Ministry and asking other departments of the Government for co-operation".

Sixty newsmen on one story!

This club system has long been a source of grievance to foreign correspondents working in Japan. To the criticisms should, perhaps, be added some qualifications. For instance, foreign press organisations are numerically unable to staff the numerous press conferences and briefings held in Tokyo, so that making them available to all would have more importance as a matter of principle than as one of practice. Moreover the Japanese press is so over-staffed that it is quite common for sixty or more reporters to be assigned to one major story, so that the restrictions applied by the operation of the club system could be claimed to serve a useful purpose in avoiding confusion which might be caused by an excessive number of reporters in the ministries.

Neverthless there is clearly a fault in the system and the protest of the foreign correspondents seems to be valid. Only a short time after the incident which caused the protest had occured, there was ground for an additional complaint. On July 11, 1960, the then Foreign Minister Mr. Fujiyama at a "prerss conference" announced the withdrawal of the U2 aircrafts from Japan. The "press conference" was, as usual, a meeting between the Minister and the Foreign Ministry "Club". Foreign agencies and newspapers could only, as usual, regard the Japanese press as a "tip-off" service and check back. The check back with the Foreign Ministry produced an inaccurate report. The Foreign Minister had stated the U2 aircraft had **completed their mission** "several weeks ago". The check with the Foreign Ministry produced the statement that they had been **withdrawn** several weeks ago. All the main foreign news agencies found they had been misled in this manner and it was some hours before the error was detected and corrected.

This was a small but significant incident illustrating the dangers, to the source and to the reporters, of keeping the reporter away from the direct access to the news. *(I.P.I. Report)*

CODE OF ETHICS

A ten-point code of press ethics was signed by newspaper owners and editors, and a Press Court of Honour to ensure application of the code, was set up in Istanbul recently.

The code was based on a drafit drawn up by a Turkish Committee in conjunction with Mr. Allan Hernelius, Editor of Sweeden's **Svenska Dagbladet** (who visited Turkey as IPI's representative) and the International Press Institute secretariat in Zurich.

The Press Court of Honour will comprise ten members, seven of whom are to be elected by Press Organisations from among professional journalists and the other three from people not connectcd with the Press.

—o—

(Mr & Mrs Orval Hopkins and Mr & Mrs Fourt with members of the Guild.)

FAREWELL TO THE HOPKINS WELCOME TO THE FOURTS

At a well-attended Get-together on October 27, members of the Madras Reporters' Guild bade farewell to Mr. Orval B. Hopkins Information Officer of U.S.I.S. in Madras on the eve of his departure to Washington to take up assignment there in the U.S. Information Agency and extended a warm welcome to his successor in Madras, Mr. Maynard H. Fourt.

A collection of books on Journalism was presented to the Guild by Mr. Hopkins on behalf of the U,S.I.S, on the occassion.

Mrs. Hopkins and Mrs. Fourt were present.

After tea, Mr. S. Ramanathan Secretary, said it was both a happy end a sad occasion--happy because the Guild was welcoming Mr. Maynard H. Fourt, the new Information Officer of the U.S.I.S and Mrs. Fourt to the City and sad in that they had to bid Farewell to Mr. Orval B. Hopkins, the outgoing Information Officer.

He hoped that the Fourts who had been in Karachi for over two years before the current assignment would enjoy their stay in Madras and that Mr. Fourt would continue the friendly relations with pressmen and others that Mr. Hopkins had cultivated. He was sure that Mr & Mrs Fourt would find in Madras, not only among Newsman, but among others, understanding people deeply interested in promoting and maintaining friendly relations between India and the U.S.A. and between India and other friendly democracies. He wished them all good luck.

Mr. Hopkins had been a great friend of newsmen. An experienced journalist who had been on the Washington Post for nearly ten years from 1947-1956 as amusements editor, columinist film and theatre reviewer. Mr. Hopkins had brought to his work a keen sense of duty, a high sense of humour and a spirit of profound sinceretY. Mr. Hopkins had no sophistry about him and moved with all persons with characteristic ease. Mrs. Hopkins, typical of American women, was generous host and helped her husband in forging bonds of personal, intimate friendship with numerous Journalists. Mr Ramanathan hoped that both Mr & Mrs Hopkins would carry with them very happy memories of their stay in Madras, and, wished Mr Hopkins all the luck in his new assignment in Washington.

Mr Fourt thanked the Guild on his own behalf and on behalf of Mrs Fourt and said like Mr Hopkins he too would continue an "open-door policy" and assured city journalists that they were always welcome in the U.S.I.S.

Books Gifted

Mr. Hopkins presented a few books on journalism and a set of classics. Thanking the Guild for the hononr. he said he had always enjoyed meeting City journalists. He was sure that Mr. Fourt would get the same co-operation and consideration the city journalists had always shown him.

Mr. B. S. Padmanabhan, member Panel of chairmen, proposed a vote of thanks and hoped the books presented by the U.S.I.S would form the nucleus of a good reference Library the Guild had been wanting to build.

Mr. Maynard H. Fourt

Mr. Maynard H. Fourt, who took over on Nov. 1. as information officer, U.S.IS. from Mr. Orval B. Hopkins. joined the U.S. Information Agency in 1955. He was publications officer in U.S.I.S. Karachi during the last two years Prior to that he served in the same capacity in Tehran and as Information officer in Washington. D.C.

Graduating with a B.S. Degree from the University of Wisconsin 1942, Mr. Fourt had worked as sales promotion Director, Amity Leather Company, West Bend, Wisconsin, and had been Co-owner of the Bulletin Publishing Co , in Burlington, Wisconsin prior to joining the U.S.I.A.

Mr. Fourt is married and has two sons and a daughter.

PARTY TO GANAPATHY

Mr. K. G. Ganapathy, who was on the reporting staff of the Press Trust of India in Madras, has left for Delhi to join the Indian Express group of papers.

At a get-together function, on Oct. 27 the Madras Reporters Guild bade farewell to him.

Mr. S. Ramanathan, Secretary referred to Mr. Ganapathi's "silent but efficient" work as a reporter and wished him all success in his new assignment.

Mr- Ganapathi said he would cherish the memory of his close association and work with the city Reporters, and thanked the Guild for the honour and the kind words spoken about him.

Mr. Michael Stephens, B.B.C. Representative in India and Pakisthan visited the Madras Reporters' Guild on Nov. 2, and had an informal chat with members,

Mr. Stephens, stationed at Delhi was on a visit to Madras in Connexion with the sceening on Nov 1. to an invited audience of the brilliant prize-winning documentary. "This is the B.B.C"

The members of the Guild discussed with Mr. Stephens many aspects of radio-journalism and the impact of Television on newspapers.

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BADEN MEET'S CALL:

GUARD PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

The Second World Meeting of Journalists, at Baden near Vienna, ended on the night of October 22 after resolving to set up an International Solidarity Committee of Journatistswith the object of expanding and strengthening contacts between pressmen of all countries.

The five-day meeting was attended by 279 representatives of 62 countries. One hundred and ninety-seven delegates to the meeting represented 43 journalistic organisations of various countries. Others came to Baden as individuals from all continents of the world in order to contribute to a discussion of professional and ethical problems of contemporary journalism

They enthusiastically carried a resolution on the professional ethics of the journalist, which reaffirmed the desire of all journalists of the world for still greater understanding and co-operation, for the strengthening of international soli darity of all journalists.

"The journalistic profession," the resolution said, "imposes a great moral responsibility upon each of us. This demands that he shoud act in accordance with the aspiratons of the people for peace, mutual understanding and co-operation. A journalist's professional ethics makes it essential for him to work for a better future for mankind, for peace and social progress and against war propaganda. A journalist must work against the cold war, for a relaxation of international tension for the peaceful co-existence of States with different social systems, for disarmament, freedom and national independence of the peoples, for national unity and peaceful unification of divided countries against colonialism, suppression of democratic rights, racial discrimination and imperialism."

Oppose Distortion of Truth

The resolution declared that it was the duty of every journalist not to tolerate distortion of the truth, oppose all attemps of falsification, misinformation and slander.

Every journalist should courageously realize his great responsibility, the resolution said. He should protest against all restriction on journalistic activities and support colleagues persecuted for their activities in favour of peace, democracy and liberty; he should support freedom of the press in those countries where it is restricted, oppose mass communication media monopolies that hamper the discharge of his duty, protest against the persecution of journalists, their imprisonment, against the banning of newspapers and discriminatory legislation.

In conclusion the resolution pointed out: "All journalists should stand guard over professional ethics and morals. It is our duty to assure that the rising generation of journalists should be brought up in a spirit of responsibility, impartiality and dedication to world peace, people's happiness and their progress."

Problems of Press and Radio

The ovation sweeping the conference hall of the Baden Kurhaus where the meeting took place greeted not only this resolution but also the many other decisions taken at the final plenary session.

The resolution on the problems of press and radio in underdevelopod countries pointed out specifically that it was the duty of journalists of all countries of the world to render all-sided assistance to the States that recently cast off the fetters of colonialism in the development of their national press, radio and television, cinema and other mass media of information. They should help the federations, unions and associations of journalists of those countries in acquiring the printing facilities they needed, assist in training workers of the press and technical staffs.

As practical measures for rendering such assistance the resolution recommended to invite people from those countries for a considerable period to improve their professional skill in editorial offices, printing shops and other organizations of the press and to dispatch experinced journalists and printers to underdeveloped countries.

The resolution also expressed the desire for setting up an international school of journalists to help members of the press and broadcasting officials in young States and for setting up an international journalists friendship fund.

The resolution on measures to help journalists in discharging their professional duties stressed the need for strengthening contacts and elose co-operation between members of the press in all States. The resolution suggested more frequent exchange of visits between staff members of newspapers and news agencis, radio and television services and also the holding of specialized meetings of journalists to discuss topical problems of their activity.

On the initiative of the delegates of a number of countries of Africa, a Provisional Solidarity Committee of African Journalists was set up at the meeting. It was decided to organize regional meetings of journalists.——TASS.

WAGES UP

The publishers of the seven New-York City daily newspapers and the New York Newspaper Guild reached a tentative agreement on a new contract thereby averting a journalists' strike on the eve of the Presidential election.

The Guild had been demanding a 10 percent wage increase on a new contract but later dropped this to a 3½ percent increse in the first year, and a 2½ percent incrase in the second year, of a two-year contract.

The newspapers, the *New York Ttmes*' the *New York Herald Tribune*, the *Daily News*, the *Mirror*, the *World-Telegram* and *Sun*, the *Journal-American* and the Post, had each made offers of about three dollars a week increases, and the Guild had rejected this earlier.

The agreement calls for a two-year package increase of seven dollars of which six dollars will be in wages.

ADD TO YOUR PRESTIGE BY AN ADD IN NEWSMAN

FLEET STREET "MURDER"

Britain's national newspapers and the London evening papers bagan an all-out struggle for new readers on October 17 as two great Liberal publications—the NEWS CHRONICLE and THE STAR—went out of existence.

The "death" of these two newspapers, which came as a shock not only to Fleet Street but to the general British public, was announced by Lord Rothermere, Chairman of the Associated Newspapers, the publishers of DAILY MAIL and EVENING NEWS with which the two newspapers were merged.

Lord Rothermere gave "mounting costs of modern production" as the reason for the closure of the two newspapers, which represented the third big newspaper death within 36 hours—the EMPIRE NEWS having published for the last time on the previous Sunday, before it was absorbed by the NEWS OF THE WORLD.

Reuter reported that the death of the NEWS CHRONICLE and the STAR brought to 25 the number of British morning, evening and weekly newspapers which have folded since 1953. The agency said, "Newspapermen mourning the passing of three great newspapers within three days were to-day speculating on the future of yet another—*the Sunday Graphic.*

"*The Sunday Graphic* like the *Empire News*, is owned by the Canadian millionaire, Mr. Roy Thompson, who in July 1959 acquired for 11,250,000 sterling the newspaper group built up by Lord Kemsley.

"Mr. Thomson has expressed the view in several statements that too many daily and Sunday newspapers have been competing in Britain for the advertising revenue available.

"The Press world was also to-day talking with both curiosity and heat about the ironical situation which has developed here in which circulations of a million and more are no longer enough to save a newspaper."

Observers felt that although it had been known for some time that the two newspapers were in difficulties their end was abrupt and undignified—without even the formality of an announcement in their own columns.

The London Correspondent of THE HINDU, Dr. K. S. Shelvankar wrote that a particularly incongrous feature of the episode was that the NEWS CHRONICLE, long famous as a liberal organ had been absorbed not by the DAILY HERALD, with which its policies might be considered to have had something in common, but by "the truest and bluest brand of Toryism." Coming at a time when there was widespread talk of a rivival of Liberalism the NEWS CHRONICLE'S disappearance was naturally regretted most keenly by the Liberal party leaders.

Dr. Shelvankar observed that the closure of these two newspapers carried forward the trend towards amalgamation which had been much commented on since the war. The position today was that three big newspaper groups had more than half the total daily readership in the country.

The Indian journalist also saw, in the end of these papers, the beginning of another great newspaper battle in Fleet Street. He said: "The DAILY MAIL evidently hopes that it will be able to keep a substantial part of the NEWS CHRONICLE readership and thus shorten the distance between it and its chief rival the DAILY EXPRESS, which has a circulation of over four millions There is however no certainty who will pick up the Liberal readership of the NEWS CHRONICLE in the months to come. The popular dailies, crammed with trivialities as they are, have been losing circulation during the last ten years, while the so-called serious papers have been gaining ground and it may well be that the serious papers will also benefit to some extent by the latest developments."

LIKE HOUSE TIDIED FOR FUNERAL

(A graphic description of how the office of the News Chronicle presented itself just before its closure is given in this article reproduced from the Guardian.)

By Sheila Young

The office felt strange yesterday. It was the unnatural swept-and-clean look of the lifts, as of a house tidied for the funeral after a long illness. It was the macabre jokes. "Ah, back in time for the wake." "That's right, I like to be in at the death."

And over all the leaden feeling of a thunderstorm, the fear in the pit of the stomach. Reporters stood unhappily over the newspaper files, sub-editors sat stolidly at their desks, the telephones rang and were answered, the copytakers patiently fingered out the words that were being trustingly poured into their earphones from correspondents. Only the conversation distinguished the day from one of thousands.

"All right for you, old man. I've got the school fees to pay." "Well, I suppose I can always sweep the roads." "I think the board have handled this disgracefully, "What time is the wretched meeting anyway?"

"That's it"

Three o'clock: Meeting with union representatives. Four-thirty: Meeting with heads of departments. The News Editor runs along the corridor, calls his second in command. One or two reporters say: "Right, that's it." One looks down at his typewriter. "Might as well collect my exes, I suppose."

In the accounts department, the young cashier grins at the stack of paid out expenses chits We usually depend on a quiet Monday. We have had a rush today." He's young, just married, and into a new house. "Oh, well, we'll be the last to go."

Upstairs, no one is keen to go out for the five o'clock drink. Dark suits, sombre expressios wait for the first steps along the corridors. Words are caught, tossed: "There'll be a paper tomorrow.,' "Only one edition, I bet. It's all a blind, a smokescreen, not to let the others guess."

(See next page)

(from page 5)

The Last Day.........

Then a senior staff member. "Sorry to see you back from holiday in such circumstances. Well officially nothing until six but···I shouldn't bother to finish anything you're working on now."

Little groups eddied and moved, straining to hear yet another word, another phrase, another hope.

"What, only a week's compensation for every full year worked?"

"You mean none of us is being taken on?"

"I'm going to go out and get drunk."

"I'm going to phone my wife."

"I've phoned mine· All she said was, "You're kidding.'"

"I told mine to take the steak off the stove. Its baked beans and spaghetti from now on."

"Right, I'm looking for a job from now."

"Heard of old John? He's written six letters in the last few days."

"What about Mike. He's written 26."

Already, like the Titanic, people move about, opening drawers, pulling out old piles of copy paper, the memos, the background notes, the names and addresses of contacts, the handbooks to a hundred and one exhibitions and conferences. "I've always fancied taking the Dickens bust myself as a memento."

A reporter sits down angrilly at his desk. "I was sent on this story today and I'll write it, whether or no there's a paper to put it in."

Down in the pubs people call for doubles. A subeditor unfolds the news schedule for the "News Chronicle," October 18. "Bit of a souvenir—or something, I suppose."

Trays clear

Another meeting at seven o'clock, in the board room, the notice says, but when the time comes we all sit around on the subs' desks. The trays for copy are clear, the spikes look emaciated without their fat ruffs of discarded stories. The board is empty of edition times.

Someone yells into the corner. "Can't you shut those wire machines off?" The arteries are chocked. Already the copytakers have given up the pretence of taking stories for a paper that will not appear.

"Something of tragedy"

The terms of the agreements are read out, the question of compensation is discussed, muttered over. Someone says softly: "Quite apart from all these personal stories, I suppose this is really something of a tragedy in Fleet Street."

The telephone rings suddenly on the Chief Sub-Editor's desk. Someone picks it up and listens a moment. "No, old chap, we're finished. That's all."

REPORTER AT FAULT

U. K. Press Council Finding

Criticism of both sides is contained in the British Press Council findings, published recently, after their investigation into the reported conduct of some newspaper representatives while the late Aneurin Bevan was gravely ill at the Royal Free Hospital, London early this year.

Of the three specified instances, brought to their attention, the Council have given complete exoneration in one case, but in the other two they have considered that some reporters were "at fault".

At the same time, they have found that the Labour Party's allegation of "unauthorised attempts to gain entry to Mr. Bevan's room" is misleading and is not borne out by the evidence. They have also given expression to the feeling that there were inadequate arrangements at the hospital to meet the damand for news about Mr. Bevan.

In the course of their findings, the Council said, "The Press has a responsibility to hospitals on such occasions to limit its inquiries as far as possible. This was indicated in the recommended routine procedure at hospitals approved by a conference of representatives of the medical profession and press on May 16, 1956 when it was stated that satisfactory co-operation between hospitals and the press will depend on the observance of conduct that will promote mutual confidence and good personal relations.

"The Press Council takes this opportunity to remind all parties concerned of the existence of this procedure and the importance of observing it".

The Council considered that in the second of the three incidents the reporters were not at fault in making their inquiry of the deputy matron and visiting her room as permission had been given for this visit,

As regards the first and the third incidents, the Council regretted that some reporters thought it necessary to visit an upstairs ward in the hospital to pursue their enquiries. Undoubtedly they were at fault in doing so, the Council said.

INSURANCE FOR NEWSMEN

The problem of the safety of reporters on dangerous assignments was dealt with, among other things, at an International Congress of Editors-in-Chief recently held in Thonon on Lake Geneva, at Annecy and at Aixlex-Bains on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the linking of Savoy to France.

According to a report in the *Democratic Journalist*, the International Federation of Editors-in-Chief was concerned with this problem primarily in view of the military events in Algeria.

The Congress hoped through negotiations with the U. N., UNESCO and the International Red Cross, to be able to provide reporters, in regions where military actions or revoltutions were taking place, with either a special card or a special supplement to their normal passport.

It also recommended the signing of an agreement with an international insurance company which would cover the case of any damage incurred while carrying on the profession which might entail either temporary or permanent incapacity or even death.

Press Vs. T. V.

Newspapers Should Try New Ideas

How the Press in Britain should adapt itself to face the increasing competition of broadcast media was the subject of two thought-provoking speeches, at the recent annual conference of the Young Newspapermen's Association held at Hastings.

Mr. Boorman, editor-proprietor of the **Kent Messenger** and President of the Newspaper Society told the conference: "TV will make great strides, commercial radio is coming, the transister set will enable people to carry in their waistcoat pocket a radio set on which they can hear the racing or football results and other spot news That will affect newspapers." But, he said, newspapers would still survive and be read. He urged editors and proprietors to experiment, be daring and try out new ideas. But, he cautioned, not too suddenly "for readers do not like changes to be too sudden".

Mr. E. C. Mackenzie, Managing Director, W.S. Crawford Ltd.. (Advertising Agents) in a speech sparkling with humour, reassured the members of the YNA about their future in the "Space Age". He felt owners of provincial newspapers had nothing to fear from telivision in the future. TV advertising had colossal advantages over the printed word but also grave disabilities, he added.

He warned against the type of local newspaper promotion which used the approach "back the regional telivision campaign by using the local press". This, he thought, was extremely bad practice. "Don't accept Cindrella role! Sell your newspapers on their own merits." he urged.

Mr. Mackenzie thought that developments in the field of TV could have an extremely beneficial effect on the press. He said that broadcast media could give only a quick background to news and current affairs; a great vacuum was still left for newspapers to fill.

News came in too fast and from too many quarters for it to be readily appreciated. It was in this sphere that the press could score. News papers which interpreted the news giving the detail in a sane and balanced fashion had a great contribution to make.

But this, Mr. Mackenzie said, called for an almost entirely new style of journalism. He was "fed up" with the over-bright, and clipped presentation of the nationals but on the other hand did not want to read dully presented and over-written pompous contributions. The press must take the middle road. The answer was in simply written, balanced, and interpretative journalism. This was the real need of the future.

Mr. Mackenzie called on the newspaper proprietors not to stick to the same editorial formula just because it had existed for years. He recommended that the most careful research should be conducted, which would yield some very surprising information. For example, he said that research would reveal that the modern young woman was really more interested in such things as men's clothes, stocks and shares and all sorts of other subjects which the editor of a woman's page or feature would never think of including. If this kind of information for the entire editorial content could be gained, and newspapers were produced accordingly, sales would certainly climb.

In his opinion too few editors were willing to experiment. In many cases their attitude was one of omnipotence —they already knew it all.

Mr. Raynor D.Chapman. Editor-in-chief of Wessex Associated Press Ltd., said that in the last decade he had seen the number of what was called special pages—that is, combined editorial and advertising features—increase alarmingly. "I do not deny that some of these pages and supplements can be very good and both useful and attractive to the reader. But we must take care not to push them to extremes. They are sometimes very wasteful of space which must annoy readers and we must also remember that many of these pages are sold at virtually half-rate advertisement revenue—for only some 50 percent of the space is paid for, the rest comprising a free editorial puff-" he said.

Another topic dealt with by Mr. Chapman was better working conditions and prospects for journalists. He said it was the provincial press that bore the heavy burden of training personnel and not the national press. "Very often once they are trained they leave us. A move of this nature is inevitable but the provincial press must not let it operate too strongly to its disadvantage. I am certain it could be partially counteracted if there was a better and more consistent scheme of promotion in the provinces,." he said.

Mr. C.H.Gordon, Production Manager of **Middlesex County Press,** Mr. William Ridd, Secretary of the Newspaper Society, Mr. J. B. Boothroyd, Assistant Editor of **Punch** were the other speakers at the conference.

Tercentenary of Polish Press

Preparations are afoot in Poland to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the emergence of Polish Press next year.

The Polish Press is considered to have emerged on January 3, 1661 with the first number of a weekly *"Merkurisz Polski" (Polish Mercury)*. Besides producing a number of publications, the Polish journalists propose to celebrate the occasion by trying to encourage the broadest possible research on the press, both from the point of view of history and from that of the contemporary problems of the press.

The Committee for the celebrations, which is headed by M. Rakowski, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Union of Polish Journallsts, is preparing a number of exhibitions on the press. An international conference on the Press, in conjunction with the International Organisation of Journalists, has been proposed to be held in September next year. as part of the celebrations.

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initiative from the shop floor

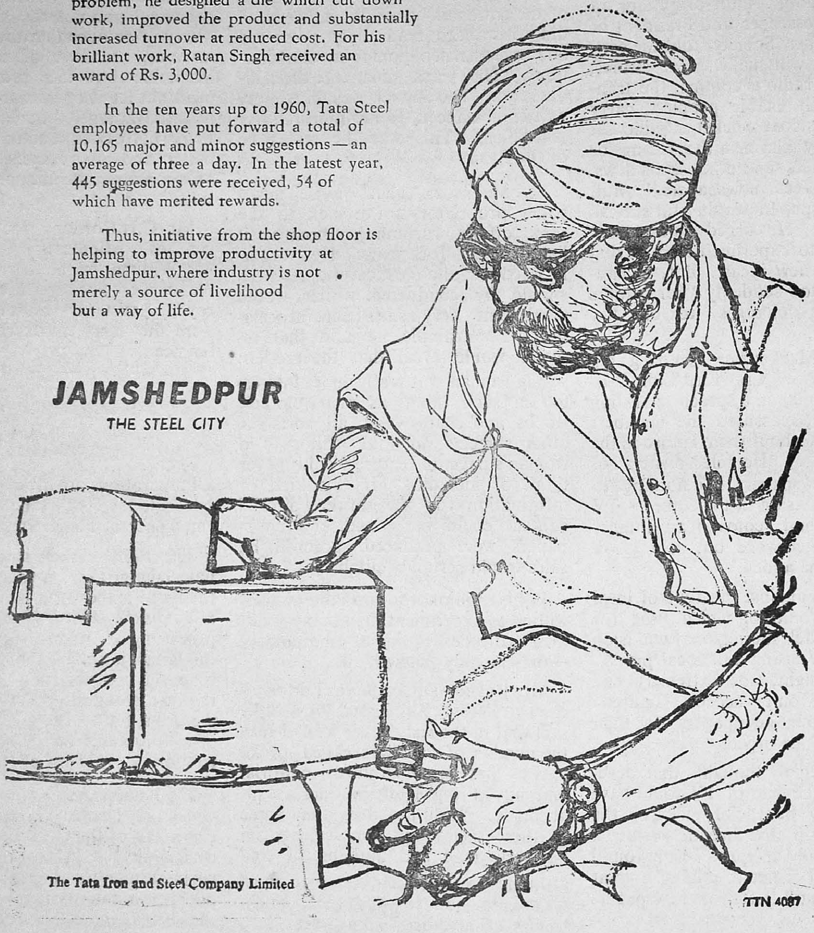
The manufacture of crowbars in Tata Steel's Agrico factory in Jamshedpur involved a number of time-consuming and uneconomic manual operations. Ratan Singh, a foreman, decided to do something to improve matters. Carefully studying the problem, he designed a die which cut down work, improved the product and substantially increased turnover at reduced cost. For his brilliant work, Ratan Singh received an award of Rs. 3,000.

In the ten years up to 1960, Tata Steel employees have put forward a total of 10,165 major and minor suggestions—an average of three a day. In the latest year, 445 suggestions were received, 54 of which have merited rewards.

Thus, initiative from the shop floor is helping to improve productivity at Jamshedpur, where industry is not merely a source of livelihood but a way of life.

JAMSHEDPUR

THE STEEL CITY



The Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited

TTN 4087

THE PRESS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The present organisation of the Czechoslovak Press fully corresponds to the revolutionary principle proclaimed and applied immediately after Czechoslovakia's liberation in 1945: publishing activities must not be an object of private enterprise and periodicals may only be published by recognised political parties, social organisations and public institutions.

The law concerning the publication of newspapers and periodicals, and the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists enacted in 1950, which legalises this principle, further stipulates that the principle aim of the Czechoslovak Press is to aid in the building efforts of the people and to co-operate in promoting their socialist consciousness. This second principle followed from the revolutionary events in February, 1948, when the working class finally prevailed over the bourgeoisie. The publication and distribution of newspapers and periodicals in Czechoslovakia is therefore co-orninated in such a way that the Press should fulfil in all spheres of life its important social mission as the organiser and propagator of the building of socialism The task of the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists, which is a voluntary association of working journalists, is according to 1950 law, to ensure the proper fulfilment of the duties of journalists, arising from the role of the Press and from its public mission. Freedom of the Press is guaranteed by the Constitution not only formally but also materially by placing at the disposal of the working people paper mills, printing works and news agencies.

Structure of the Czech Press

Today a total of 1,447 newspapers and periodicals is being published with an average overall circulation of 16,500,000 copies. There are 22 Newspapers with a total circulation of 2,700,000 copies. In Prague eight national newspapers and one evening paper, and in Bratislava (slovakia) six newspapers and one evening paper are being published. In each of the six regional cities one regional paper is being published. Shortly two newspapers which at present appear every second day will be published as dailies so that every one of the ten regions, into which Czechoslovkia is divided, will have its own daily Press. In Prague the Communist Party publishes its daily newspaper "Rude Pravo", the Revolutionary Trade Union Movement publishes "Prace", the Czechoslovak Socialist Party "Svobodne slovo", the Czechoslovak People's Party "Lidova demokracie", the Czechoslovak Youth Union "Mlada fronta", etc.

By KAREL F. ZIERIS

(The author who is the Secretary of the Union of Czhechoslovak Journalists explains in this article the social mission and organisation of the fourth estate in his country)

District newspapers are published once or twice weekly in all of the 108 districts. They form an important additional source of information to the existing national and regional Press by providing items of local interest. The local Press comprises factory newspapers which are published weekly or fortnightly in all large industrial plants. In addition to the national, the regional and the local Press, several hundred political, economic, cultural and specialised weeklies, monthlies and magazines are published. Last year a total of 1,350 million copies of periodicals were printed.

The Czechoslovak Radio to day has 3,105,000 wireless licence holders and the Czechoslovak Telivision has 675,000 TV licence holders after just under seven years of existence.

The Press. radio and telivision are supplied, in addition to their own news services, by the Czechoslovak News Agency with which all editorial offices of the national and regional Press as well as of radio and telivision are linked by teleprinter. The Czechoslovak News Agency maintains a network of over forty correspondents in all continents of the world with the exception of Australia. National newspapers and the Czechoslovak Radio also have their own foreign correspondents. The Czechoslovak News Agency exchanges its materials with major wire services as well as with a number of national Press agencies.

Task of the Union

Although the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists is a voluntary social organisation, it associates virtually all journalists working in the Press, radio. telivision and on newsreels as their main creative occupation. The Union has a little over 3,000 members of whom one-half works in Prague where the main editorial offices of most newspapers and journals, of the radio, telivision, the Czechoslovak News Agency and of the newsreel studios are located. Out of the second half of the total membership about 800 journalists live in Slovakia and most of these, about 600, work in Bratislava. The others are organised in eight regional branches of the Union. The Union of Czechoslovak Journalists works according to the rules endorsed by the plenary meeting of its members. These rules stipulate the rights and duties of members.

The main task of the Union is to look after the systamatic raising of political and professional level of its membership and after the training of young journalists who have sound political and specialised qualifications. Another important job of the Union is to ensure the establishment of favourable conditions for the creative work of its members. The Union develops its activities mainly in specialised sections, such as the section for home policy, for international affairs, the section for economic matters, the agricultural section, the sport writers section, the cultural section, the section of science and technique, the section for Press photographers, etc. The Union has thirteen of these specialised sections. They hold regular discussions on topical problems of political, economic and cultural life, lectures and Press conferences. They also discuss questions concerning journalistic activities of their members from the point of view of each individual section. In addition to these discussions and Press conferences organised by individual sections, the Union

(Turn over)

calls Press Conferences and Press tours at the wish of individual Government departments and public institutions which want to inform the public through the Press, radio and telivision about important questions concerning their departments.

Training of Journalists

Departments of Journalism have been established at Prague and Bratislava Universities. However, not every journalist joining the staff of a newspaper, radio or telivision station comes with University education. Many have come forward from factories or farms. The Union of Czechoslovak Journalists organises for such journalists supplementary studies: courses covering the minimum knowledge required of each journalist, specialised seminars and preparatory schooling for more advanced journalists who wish to take up University studies. Evening schools of Marxism-Leninism, organised by regional committees of the Communist Party in co-operation with the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists, are held to raise the political and specialised qualifications of journalists.

Study Institutes of Journalism have been established both in Prague and Bratislava. They are attached to the Union and promote in particular creative activities of journalists. They deal with the history of journalism and with theoretical and practical questions of the Press. They collect documentary material, classify it and prepare it for use by journalists. They issue background material for courses organised by the Union. The Union has a large number of lecturers from among the ranks of experienced journalists who by lectures and written studies pass on their experiences to younger or less experienced colleagues. The Union publishes two journals: the monthly "Czechoslovak Journalist" which concentrates on the practical exchange of experiences, and the quarterly "Journalistic Review" which deals with the theory of journalism and the history of journalism. The Union sponsors every year a competition about the best article of the year. This competition has been named after Julius Fucik, the brilliant Communist journalist excuted by the Nazis during the war.

Working Conditions of Journalists

On September 21, the day on which in 1920 "Rude Pravo", the national newspaper of the Communist Party was first published, has been celebrated as the Day of the Czechoslovak Press for many years. On that day rallies are held in various other Czechoslovak cities at which journalists discuss their work with readers and ways and means of better helping the working people in implementing their construction tasks. Usually, a number of prominent newspapermen receive high State awards on the occasion of the Day of the Czechoslovak Press.

All journalists are organised as trade unionists in the Union of Employees of Schools, Science. Arts and the Press, with which the Union of Czechoslovak Journalists closely co-operates in all material questions affecting journalists. The salaries of journalists have been fixed by a special award of the State Wage Commission. Journalists are divided into nine salary categories according to their work and qualifications. The salary of each journalists consists of three parts: basic pay, corresponding to the salary category to which the journalist is entitled; qualification bonus for length of journalistic practice, education and knowledge of foreign languages; premium (not fixed) for higher output of work. The bonus and the premium may each reach up to thirty per cent of basic pay. The salaries of Chief editors of national newspapers, the radio. telivision and Czechoslovak News Agency are determined individually outside of the above given salary scale.

The Union of Czechoslovak Journalists maintains a House of Journalists both in Prague and Bratislava. These provide club facilities where journalists can meet for discussions, Press conferences, social occasions and for their meals in the club restaurant. The union also owns a castle with an extensive park near Prague where for most of the year courses and schooling are held with full board provided by the Union. In summer months the castle serves as a rest home for members and their families. Every year the Union sponsors a traditional ball of journalists, the net receipts of which are donated to the Fund of Solidarity in support of progressive journalists from capitalists countries.

The constantly expanding international contacts are an important aspect of the activities of the Union. The Union organises visits of foreign journalists to Czechoslovakia and of Czechoslovak journalists to foreign countries.

President NASSER with Pakistan Pressmen who met him on November, 10, 1960 in Cairo while covering President Ayub's U. A. R. tour.

Jakarta Ban On 'Corner Columns'

The Indonesian Government banned all "corner columns" in local newspapers and magazines, Antara News Agency reported on October 31.

The announcement said these "corner columns" had been frequently employed for criticism against Government, using phraseology that 'sometimes ignores norms of decency, derogatory to the person or groupings concerned."

The announcement said "legitimate and constructive criticism" would still be permitted in editorial columns.

BEHEADING DEMOCRACY?

The Assam Legislative Assemly passed on October 29 the Press Bill which seeks to give "special powers" to the Government to clamp restrictions on the Press in times of emergency to be notified by the State Governor.

On a notification by the Governor, the State Government is empowered under the Bill to impose censorship, pre-censorship, compel newspapers to publish matter required by the Government on payment of adequate remuneration. and to ban entry or circulation of newspapers.

During the debate on the last day, Mr. Hiralal Patwari said that with the passage of this Bill, democracy would be "beheaded". He pleaded that freedom of the Press should not be interefered with.

Mr. Phani Bora said the existing weapons under different legislations were enough to control the Press and characterised the Bill as "pasupathastra" meaning the deadliest weapon.

Replying to the discussion, Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, Law Minister claimed that the Bill did not give special and sweeping powers to the Government and that its help would be taken only in the case of emergency. He said the Bill neither sought to suppress the press individual freedom. Right to freedom of expression was based on the fact that it should be used for the common good and if that freedom was misused it disturbed the people at large. Then some checks recognised by the Constitution was necessary.

In reply to a question, Mr. Ahmed told a member that during July, August, and September different newspapers in Calcutta published 91 false rumours about the July bisturbance endangering peace in the State. Newspapers issuing from Gauhati published four false rumours in July and none it September and October. The Government were not aware of any false news items being published in Indian newspapers other than those published from West Bengal, he said.

THE PRICE PAID

According to a NAFEN message, the price paid for the "News Chronicle" and its companion evening newspaper, the "Star," was £. 1,925,000.

This was disclosed by Mr L. J. Cadbury, Chairman of the company which published both the journals.

He said payments to former staffs, including compensation for loss of employment, would cost more than £. 1,500,000.

The final decision to sell the newspapers was "precipitated by an alarming increase in the rate of loss"—£. 300,000 in the first nine months of this year. Last year the newspapers sustained a loss of £. 101,000.

To have brought the "News Chronicle" up to the size of its Fleet Street rivals would have cost £. 4,000,000.

More offers to acquire the two newspapers are revealed to have been made before they were taken by the Associated Newspapers Limited for £. 1,500,000.

The Australian Consolidated Press several months ago sought an option to buy and is said to have undertaken to keep the papers going, for a minimum of three years and spend an additlonal £. 1,500,000 to develop them.

The Chairman, Mr L. J. Cadbury, of the Daily News Limited, which published the "News Chronicle" and the "Star," denied a report that the sum offered by Australian Consolidated was £. 2,500,000 for both papers.

The details of a bid by a syndicate of Liberals to take over the "News Chronicle" and the "Star" make it clear that the interests concerned intended to offer £. 500,000 for both together, with a guarantee to subsidise the papers if necessary to the extent of £. 500,000 a year for two years.

The "Daily Herald" said yesterday that its publishers, Odhams Press Limited, sought talks about three weeks ago on the possibility of an arrangement between the "Herald" and the "News Chronicle" but Mr. Cadbury "was not prepared to have them."

Abortive discussion took place between the "Daily Herald" and the "Chronicle" about three-and-half years ago, the "Herald" recalled,

Demand For Inquiry

The editorial staff of the "News Chronicle" and the "Star" are demanding a public inquiry into the circumstances leading to the closure of those newspapers.

A staff meeting resolved that an inquiry was necessary "not only because of the loss of 2,500 jobs but the danger to democracy through the growing concentration of newspaper ownership in a few hands."

In a statement issued earlier, journalists employed by the defunct paper NEWS CHRONICLE alleged that the closing of the paper represented "the most flagrant betrayal of principles in the history of British journalsm."

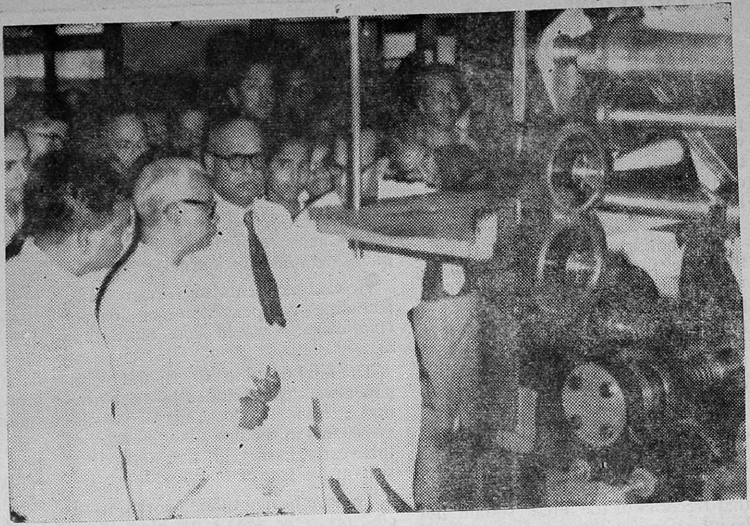
They regarded the closure of this newspaper after 114 years as a complete and unjustified scuttle and said: "We are determined not to let the spirit and tradition of Liberal journalism disappear—we will maintain it however we can, as best we can. If the world recognises Government in exile we claim equal respect in our efforts to maintain the tradition of truth in exile.

"We are certain that if we can hold together long enough, the reading public which has been so cynically misled can be told the whole truth behind the death of the **News Chronicle**—the most flagrant betrayal of principles in the history of British journalism."

CAMERAS DOWNED!

As a protest against police obstruction during the visit of Krushchov to a power plant at Ybbs-Persenbeug, Austria, press photographers "downed cameras" and held aloft a notice chalked in Russian, "Photographers on Strike", for the Russian leader to see as he passed. The strikers won the day, for later they were ushered through police barriers and greeted by a smiling Krushchov who urged "Nix streiken—Photos machen".

NEW PAPERS FOR MADRAS



Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam switching on the rotary of the "Daily Dispatch"

One of the significant developments that has taken place in the field of journalism in Madras City in recent months is the emergence of new Tamil dailies in quick succession.

Because of this, the press corps has been strengthened as will be seen from the number covering the Police and the Secretariat. A year back there were hardly four newsmen covering the Police and now nearly eight are there. In the Secretariat as against half a dozen presemen a year back, there are now more than a dozen.

"Dina Seithi" was the first of these new additions and it was followed by "Tamil Nadu", and "Nava Sakthi." Latest, in the list is "Navamani', a co-operative venture of newspaper employees renderd jobless by the closure of the Indian Express group of papers in the City.

'Navamani', representing the first co-operative venture in the newspaper field in the South, was inaugurated on September 9 by Mr. R. Venkataraman, Minister for Labour, Industries and Co-operation.

Commending it, Mr. Venkataraman said that some newspapers had policies of their own. Some others supported certain political parties and they presented the reports in such a manner as would suit their purpose. It would be interesting to see on what lines the newspaper run on co-operative basis would work steering clear of those lines of publication. If the newspaper succeeded in avoiding discrimination in the matter of presentation of news, it would have given a new lead to the newspaper industry, he said.

Dr. U. Krishna Rao, Speaker of the Madras Legislative Assembly presided over the inaugural function.

Three weeks later, its sister paper "Daily Dispatch" in English rolled out of the press. Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Home Minieter switched on the high speed rotary, secured from Germany by the Indian Federation of Working Journalists with the help of the International Organisation of Journalists and the Union of Journalists of the German Democratic Republic.

The two newspapers have some novel features. First, unlike in others, every employee therein is also the employer. Secondly, they deviate from normalcy in their size in that they have seven columns—one column less than the other papers. Thirdly, they are attempting new styles in presentation of news. Last but not the least they shut their columns to no party, thereby fulfilling the hope expressed by Mr. Venkataraman, Labour Minister.

With these two newspapers, there are now Three English dailies (one of which, **Mail**, is an evening paper) and six Tamil dailies (of which one, **Swadesamitran**, is an evening paper), published from the City. These do not include dailies which are in the nature of political organs like the "Viduthalai", "Nam Nadu" and "Jana Sakthi".

"THREAT" TO ORISSA NEWSMEN

The Working Committee of the Utkal Journalists Association has said that "Persistent attacks" of the Orissa Government has made it impossible for correspondents in the State to discharge their duties "impartially, freely and fearlessly."

In a resolution, the committee referred to the 'show-cause' notice issued by the State Government to the correspondent of a Calcutta English daily in respect of his dispatches during August floods in the State, which the State Chief Minister had described as "insulting to the State."

The resolution said: "Persistent attacks of the Orissa Government on Press correspondents in the State has led to the Association's regretful conclusion that conditions for dischargeof the duties of Pressmen impartially freely and fearlessly do not exist any longer in Orissa."

It appealed to the Indian Working Journalists to conduct an inquiry into this matter and create conditions conducive to the "free and fearless discharge of the duties of journalists in the State."

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and that was Taipei. It must be said to the credit of Taipei's intelligence, that Nationalist Chinese sources were the first to report that Mao Tse Tung was relinquishing the chairmanship of the People's Republic and that there was a border outbreak on a large scale in Tibet. During the massive bombardment of the Quemoy group of islands in 1958, the world would have been left largely in ignorance but for the very factual information which Taipei had put out. Taipei also arranged for the flight of correspondents to the shell-shattered islands

Finally Mr. Bhat mentioned the restrictions which Peking had delibely enforced. "For instance, American correspondente cannot get the *New China News Agency* releases—either for love or money. Since November last year, Peking has prohibited the sale, outside Mainland China, of all Chinese newspapers except the *People's Daily*. But a few copies of the other Chinese newspapers, including regional publications, are being smuggled out of China and are being sold in Hong Kong at Black Market prices. One reason why Peking has imposed this latest ban is perhaps the fact that the regional newspapers, in particular, give accounts of counter-revolutionary activity and the arrest and punishment of so-called counter-revolutionaries, and reactionaries and Chiang Kai-shek agents."

Visa Problems

Because of the difficulties which correspondents had in obtaining visas for Communist China, Mr. Bhat thought that every non-Communist country ought to insist that it would admit Communist Chinese journalists only on a basis of strict reciprocity.

The general coverage of news in South-East Asia was the subject reviewed by the third panel speaker, Mr. Dennis Bloodworth. He fully endorsed what Mr. Bhat had said about the unreliability of official Chinese statistics and also about the difficulties experienced by correspondents who wished to visit China itself.

"You apply for a visa and you never know when you're going to get it. Your paper is usually under the impression that you can go in next week. The first time I applied for a visa it took four and half months to get; the second time it took only 17 days. The third time is a little bit in the air, because I applied in January 1959 and I still haven't got it."

Mr. Bloodworth thought that editors who sent correspondents to China should realize that they could not move about there as they pleased "From the moment you cross the frontier, at Hong Kong, you are in the hands of very hospitable and solicitous Chinese officials of one kind and another, who sort of hand you on from one to the other, rather like nursemaiding children, until you find yourself ultimately in Peking. Then you can say where you would like to go, and it must be said that outside of certain restricted areas—obviously the coast opposite Formosa would be one—you're allowed to go pretty well where you like. They give you an internal visa which enables you to perform a journey round China. You must not alter your schedule at all. You must not get out of the train anywhere en route. Therefore, you have many correspondents who can say "Well, I've done 10,000 miles of China," or something of that sort. It dosen't mean a great deal. They have all done more or less the same 10,000 miles."

A sub-commission of the Indian National Commission for co-operation with the UNESCO has recommended the setting up of an Asian Institute of Journalists in an Asian City where refresher courses for professional journalists and public relations officers can be organised.

It suggested that a sum of 10,000 dollars may be set apart for a seminar as a primilinary to the establishment of this Institute.

It also urged the National Commission to support the suggestion to organise seminars in South-East Asia to provide training for journalists and working professionals, made at the meeting held in Bangkok in January 1960 to discuss development of information media in South-East Asia.

It could not be said, Mr. Bloodworth thought, that in China difficulties were put in the way of the correspondent, either in obtaining interviews or in reporting back to his paper. But the interviews were usually on the basis of submitted questions, and, althogh you would personally see the man you had asked to see, he would read out his answers from a prepared text.

A great deal of pressure was exerted on the visiting correspondent if he was felt to be inimical in his attitude towards China, said Mr. Bloodworth. The last time he was there, for example, the *New China News Agency* put out one or two pieces saying that he was a scurrilous liar and a few things like that. He had a very stiff interview with one minister, who raked up old copies of his newspaper and pointed to stuff he had written and said just what he thought about it. But generally speaking, one was left alone. However, on account of the fact that you could not have much informal contact with people, you depended very much on foreign sources—and when you were travelling in the provinces, there were no foreign sources. "Because of these things, you are dependent mainly on your own observation and on minute note taking of everything you see from the moment you cross the frontier to the moment you, with some relief, cross it the other way."

An Area Under pressure

On the subject of coverage of South-East Asia Mr. Bloodworth said that this area was important both because it was an area under pressure from a great growing Communist state, to wit, China, and also because it was an area of unresolved conflicts. divided eountries or Korea, Viet Nam (and, up to a point, Laos) and of the conflict between Formosa and Mainland China. In addition, it was an area in which military Communist insurgency was widespread. In Burma, in Malaya, the Philippines and several other countries, there was an uuderground Communist activity, which revealed itself in the form of armed aggression.

Moreover South-East Asia was an area of experiments. Many of the countries which had attained independence recently had experimented with Western type parliamentary democracy; they had flirted wtth Communism, and they were seeking, perhaps vainly, a third solution. The political experiments which were carried out in the countries of South-East Asia, varied between the guided democracy of Indonessia and the experimental form of democratic, but partyled Government, in Singapore, under the People's Action Party which took over when Singapore attained self-government in June 1959.

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More Background Needed

Mr. Bloodworth thought ihat the statement of Mr. Beech that Japan was not news, but it was full of stories, in a way applied to the coverage that was required by most of the world's press on South-East Asia. The correspondent there found him self moving from one spot news story to another. But what they did not manage to get across because their papers very often did not have the space for it, was the background story, not only political, but in terms of economic and cultural development —*the direction* that the sub-continent as a whole was taking.

The economic story was very often ignored, except in so far as it affected the political situation. He thought that was a pity, because "series of spot news stories about coups here, crises there, and assassinations in the third place really don't build up any kind of picture in the reader's mind."

In terms of newspaper personnel Mr. Bloodworth thought apart from the agencies, coverage was "rather thin on the ground." "I feel sometimes," he said, "that in editorial offices themselves there is perhaps not a due appreciation, or should I say, knowledge, of this area. A colleague of mine, not so long ago received a telegram from his editor while he, the correspondent, was in Singapore, saying 'Please go to Macao and cover motor race,' or some such story. It happened that this newspaper also had a correspondent in Hong Kong. Macao is there and a half hours by boat from Hong Kong; it's the only way to get there; Singapore is at the other end of the sub-continent. So my colleague wired back to London and said, 'Why doesn't Joe go from Hong Kong?" The answer came back 'Because you are nearer.' This mystified him even more, so he wired back and gave a little geographical information to his foreign editor who finally wired back and said "Sorry, Joe can go. We got Macao and Malacca mixed".

Despite the fairly full agency coverage of South-East Asia, said Mr. Bloodworth, correspondents did nevertheless sometimes find themselves enjoying what one might call a 'shame-faced' scoop, that is to say a scoop which was abuut four weeks out of date, because no-one had cottened on to the story before or because for some reason or other they couldn't publish it. "Recently, for example, two correspondents in Singapore produced an interesting story on how Dr. Subandrio, the Indonessian foreign minister, had been treated in Peking. It was said that he was very badly treated by Mr. Chou-En Lai and Marshall Chen Yi and he had come away furious, and that this was the starting point of a rupture in Indonesian-Chinese relations. One of the interesting aspects of the story was that it came out of Singapore. It was not sent out by a single wire service from Indonesia, nor was it published in the Indonesian Press.

"Shortly afterwards, I had occasion to go to Jakarta and I was intrested to find, as one of the two correspondents to whom I referred, that our pieces had sparked off a whole movement inside Indonesia. They had been picked up by the national press from end to end of the country, quoted by the wire services, in fact the whole story had blown up. But why had this happened?

"The fact was that, although our colleagues in Indonesia had known of this story before we did in Singapore, they did notdare to use it until somebody else had given it."

State of Emergency

Mr. Bloodworth thought it was hardly surprising that newspapermen in Asia did not get precisely the same treatment as in the West, in view of the fact that many of the countries in South-East Asia had such unresolved problems as Communism, that some were divided, some had Communist insurgents, and so on. Almost every country in the area was in what was called a "state of emergency." Many of these countries were now new; they were full of nationalist favour, but at the same time they found themselves faced with appalling problems including insurgency, rebellion, Communist threats, But, as Mr. Beech had indicacated, they should not exaggetate the extent to which the correspondent found himself under pressure or facing obstacles. He thought that what the

(See next page)

Monopolistic Trend in Press

Monopolistic trends in various industries are engaging the attention of the Indian Government and such trends in newspaper industry could not be treated separately, said Dr B.V.Keshar Information Minister in New Delhi on November 1.

The Union Minister was addressing a meeting organised by the Delhi Union of Journalists to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Indian Federation of Working Journalists.

Dr. Keskar said working journalists should secure their rights by their own united strength and effort. "Government does not pretend to give you what is your right. It only tries to give you the minimum," he said, "Your rights you will have to win yourself."

Their cause was "bound to be victorious, provided it is based on reasonable and just grounds," but they should not try to have an objective which was impractical.

Asked whether Government contemplated any steps to check monopolistic trends in newspaper industry, he said, "it cannot be treated separately apart from other industries".

Besides, the question of freedom of expression also came in and "Government was most reluctant" to take any steps which could be criticised as infringing this freedom. "We are extremely reluctant to take any steps regarding this industry unless we have thoroughly considered all its aspects"' he said.

Earlier Mr. A. K. Gupta, President of the Delhi Union of Journalists, welcoming the Minister said that though the journalists continued to have a "lot of troubles" they had "something to stand upon" in the steps taken by Government to improve their lot.

IN BRITAIN

The issue of monopolistic trend in newspaper industry in Britain was raised in the House of Commons on October 27. following the closure of the two Liberal papers, "News Chronicle" and "The Star".

Mr. John Rodgers, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade indicated that the Government might consider referring to the Monopolies Commission the present position of London evening newspapers—there are now only two instead of three—to see whether that was against public interest.

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correspondent faced in South-East Aisa was not so much repressive measures, such as censorship, as a kind of moral pressure.

"This moral prersure is mainly applied through the visa question. The correspondent finds himself constanly facing a moral problem, which is this; 'If I report shortly and honestly straightforwardly and an in an unfriendly way because the situation is anunfriendly one, about this country, do I get back in again? And if I don't get back in again, what use am I to my paper'?"

There was a group of about a dozen countries and it world be easy, if one wanted to, to get oneself excluded from at least half of those in no time at all. So that any correspondent who did not like the area and wanted to be switched to Washington or Africa could presumably carry out this practice. Mr. Bloodworth thought that on balance his colleagues managed to hold their end up-extremely well.

With regard to press communications, Mr. Bloodworth considered that they were "a little bit one-horse at times."

Getting Around

Another serious problem was that of getting around and yet another was the mass of documentation which a correspondent often needed. As an example of this latter problem, Mr. Bloodworth told of a visit he had made to Indonesia where he had arrived the night before the visit of Khrushchov He found, as all his colleageus found, that these were the things they had to do in the two hours before Krushchov was due at the airport :—

"We had to produce the equivalant of £250 in sterling and prove we had obtained it at the official rate of exchange. (This was a bit of a blow—one doesn't usually go into a country with such a large sum of money for so short a visit.) We had to obtain two different press cards, a special table card, hand in altogether 14 passport photographs of ourselves; we had to obtain an arm brassard, two ribbons to wear, a badge, and two special invitations to cover the visit—one valid for Djakarta, one valid for the rest of the country. We had to get our names down on all sorts of lists for hotels and transportation in the provinces, and so forth. Somehow this was managed—but it's an illustration of the amount of time correspondents in South-East Asia waste in getting documents of various kinds."

Mr. Bloodworth thought that this was quite an important point for editors to bear in mind.

The Discussion

In the subsequent panel discussion Mr. Sevellon Brown asked whether Mr Bhat could clarify his suggestion regarding reciprocity for correspondents to go into Mainland China.

Mr. Bhat said that the Communist China authorities should not be allowed to "pick and choose" which correspondents they were willing to accept. He thought the matter should be the sub ject of a resolution at that IPI session.

Mr. Fritz Molden agreed that the IPI, the Executive Board, or even the General Assembly, might well consider the matter not only concerning China, but other countries as well.

In reply to a question regarding the cost of sending a correspondent to China, Mr. Bloodworth said it was not expensive. Transportation was cheap in China, and hotels were reasonable. He estimated that it cost somewhere around £350 for a period of about five to six weeks for a correspondent to visit China, and do a tour of about 4,000-5,000 miles.

Mr. Charles Eade (*Daily Mail* and Associated Newspapers, London) asked whether, in view of the excellent coverage available from the major news agencies, any newspaper was justified in going to the expense of having a special correspondent in the vast territories of Asia and paying these correspondents their "high salaries and lavish expenses?"

Mr. Beech thought the answer was that the agencies did an excellent job of covering the spot news but they were not in the position, because of the framework in which they operated, to supply the interpretation and to present the general picture that a special correspondent could present.

Mr. Dennis Bloodworth agreed. He said that there were all kinds of trends which could only be covered by a man travelling to all countries, knowing all of them, and being able to spot the similarities and differences as they developed. Moreover the man who was based on any country was under considerably greater difficulty than the man who visited it for a short time, partly because Governments and officials tended to ignore or to give fewer facilities to the man on the spot than to the visitor, and partly because the man on the spot, such as a wire service representative, who was in the country for one or two years, was often not in a position to report many of the facts which a special could pick up and report. The man on the spot was invariably under far greater pressure. He knew of one or two places where the agency man could give only more or less the official stories in his country, but many specials had been in and out and had written something quite different.

Mr. Robert O. Trumbull, correspondent of the *New York Times*, described work in India, Pakistan and Ceylon.

In Ceylon, he said, communications were excellent, for which he paid a compliment to Cable and Wireless. He had also good fortune with communications in India and Pakistan. "I've sent cables from remote towns in India where the tele graph office was lighted

— *Please Turn over*

SAUDI ARABIAN PRESSMEN FETED

Madras played host to two Saudi Arabian journalists—Sheikh Saleh Mohamed Jamal, Chief Editor and Director of the **Alnedua** of Mecca and Mr. Yaseec Taha, Editor of **Albilad**—who formed part of a three-member press delegation on tour of India.

The third member. Mr. Ali Hafez Othman could not visit Madras as, due to illness, he had to return to Saudi Arabia.

The journalists, during their two-day stay in the City from November 1, visited the office of "THE HINDU" and met city journalists at a reception got up by Mr. P. D. Murthi P.I.B. chief in Madras.

Mr. Sheikh Saleh Mahomed Jamal, in a talk with newsmen at the airport said that *Alnedua* and *Albilad* were the only two Arabic dailies in Saudi Arabia. There were no English dailies. Each newspaper had a circulation of about 20,000. There were 16 other weeklies and monthlies in Saudi Arabia.

In reply to a question, he said that the dailies had six pages. Along with international news, Indian events also found a place among the news items. These newspapers had their own correspondents in some of the Arab countries. There was one Radio Station in Jeddah which broadcast news along with music and talks.

PROBLEMS IN PEKING

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by any an oil lamp, but the dispatches always got through."

India, Pakistan and Ceylon had a British heritage on which they had improved and the maintained efficient and capable press information services. In New Delhi, for example, one could walk into the Press Information building and cover all of the ministries of the Government. Each ministry had an expert assigned to it as an information officer, and if you wanted to know how many tons of rice were produced in Bengal last year, there was a man who could probably give you that information right out of his head immediately. Also in these three countries you could make quick and easy contact with high officials in the Government. This was by no means true in Japan. Japan did not have an information set-up as such. This was because the newspapers themselves objected to it.

Mr Fritz Steck of the *Neuc Zircher Zeitung* who had just then returned from visiting China, said that because it was mpossible to have any contact with Chinese journalists, he had sought--and had indeed made—very interesting contacts with the correspondents of the Communist countries, from Poland down to Albania. He had found that these people had entirely the same problems as had Mr. Ulman, who represented the *Agence France-Press* in Peking; or Mr. Farquhar, who was there for *Reuters*. They did not get any additional information, compared to Western correspondents. They claimed that they got less. They sometimes got some privileges in making trips. and one trip had been organized for them to the so-called "newly liberated" Tibet. But for that trip, curiously enough, *Tass Agency* had not been invited, and it was a beautiful moment, he had been told, when the *Tass* correspondents were shaking hands with *Agence France–Presse* and *Reuters* in the information office and explaining the solidarity which they felt with their Western colleagues, also excluded!

The China News Agency also did not trust these Eastern European correspondents. For instance, when he was there it was officially announced that Mr, Chou-En Lai had just accepted the invitation of Mr. Nehru to go to go to India. He saw both the *Reuters* and the *Agence France-Presse* correspondents rushing to the post office and getting out their stories. There was not one of the Eastern Europeans doing the same thing. And when he enquired, they said "Oh, the official China News Agency has put this on the wires from Poland down to Albania about six hours ago, so we will be, anyhow, too late." Such was their life

Press Distrusted

Charles Hargrove, of the London *Times*, speaking of the coverage of Japan, said that one result of the extreme freedom of Japanese newspapers in criticising the Government had been a certain suspicion or distrust of the press entertained by the Japanese Government, and that distrust and suspicion, to some extent, extended also to the foreign press. While this might not be an obstacle in any way to reporting in Japan, it did create some difficulties or delays in obtaining such things as interviews with prominent persons, ministers in particular, and obtaining accurate information from such persons.

Mr. Hargrove explained, however, that that suspicion might be due to the fact that in Japan there was, perhaps, on the part of the press, no real distinction made between what might be called "off the record" conversation and a formal interview. "I remember when I first arrived in Tokyo, I was very surprised in having translated to me a leading article in one of the big dailies which began with these words 'Minister So-and-so told me in strict confidence today this and this' Under these circumstances, perhaps the hesitation of prominent officials or ministers is understandable."

Turning to the question of Korea, Mr. Hargrove said he had been to that country five times over five and a half years and always met with the most excellent welcome. He thought that the Government of South Korea surrounded the correspondent as soon as he arrived with attentions which made it very difficult for him, if he succumbed to them, to obtain the kind of balanced view that he might like to have. But this merely meant that the correspondent has to be strong-minded and refuse the official offers of help which ranged from anything from the equivalent of a geisha party to interpreters and so forth. Obviously it was a grave drawback, as anybody who had been to China presumably could emphasize equally, to go around a country at election time with an interpreter who was an official of the Ministry of Information or office of Public Information as it was called in South Korea. But beyond that fact he had never had the slightest interference from Korean officialdom with the coverage of news or with the dispatch of news to his newspaper.

Further details of the problems of correspondents working in Peking were given by M. Jean Jacquet-Francillion of the Paris *Figaro*, who had been in the Red Chinese capital for eight months.

During all that time, he said, he did not have authorization to leave the capital. He had nothing but official sources of information. And he had never once been able to get even one answer from the official information office. "Whenyou ask a question of the Chinees official by telephone, a voice, very agreeable. tells you that they have taken notice of your question, and they will reply to you. But in eight months I did not receive one reply."

But in spite of the wall of silence, a correspondent could observe directly and some of the things he would see were very surprising. "In the morning, in the Peking newspapers you hear that in the centre of the town there is a big demonstration being held against the Indians—but if you go there you see nobody!"

The last speaker of the session was Mr. Zamir Siddiqi (*Eastern Examiner*, Pakistan), who thought that one reason why certain Governments were reluctant to admit special correspondents was that some of them were not sufficiently objective in their reporting.

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